

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Quarterly Bulletin No. 273

January 1994.

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club (TasNats) is devoted to the study of all forms of Natural History, and is comprised of both experts and beginners. We cover a wide variety of topics, and encourage conservation. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, except January, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania from 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the main entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street. We share transport to fill cars wherever possible.

The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the club contact is Don Hird (34 4293).

Program

Thurs. 3 February 7.45p.m.: Bob Paterson, a TasNats member and keen bird observer will speak on Tasmanian Woodland Birds

Sat. 5 February 10 a.m.: The excursion will be to the Tinderbox area, meet at the Museum entrance, or at Kingston by arrangement.

Thurs. 3 March 7.45p.m.: AGM; Financial and other annual reports will be presented, together with a presidential address.

Sat. 5 March 9.00 a.m.: Cape Hauy Walk / Fortescue Bay. Cape Hauy, a medium standard 4 hour return walk is the main event here. It traverses a variety of coastal heath and scrubland habitats and offers fine coastal views. We will proceed at a modest pace allowing time for browsing and breaks. The walk leaves from Fortescue Bay, where an optional alternative visit with less walking may be possible.

Thurs. 7 April 7.45p.m.: Paul Humphries will speak on the Aquatic Fauna of the MacQuarie River.

Sat. 9 April 9.00 a.m.: Outing to the midlands looking at study sites and examples of different habitats on the MacQuarie River.

New Members Welcome to our new members Els, Grant, Erik and Tim Hayward.

Committee Deliberations.

Our new publication, the long, long-awaited *Butterflies of Tasmania* has been delayed at the printers due to a problem with colour plates. As these are a feature of the book, the committee decided to delay issue rather than compromise on quality. Limited numbers of *Butterflies of Tasmania* will be available to members at a modest discount to the retail price.

Organising club events and activities is a significant task. In March elections will be held if needed for the 1994 committee; please consider. Our secretary of recent years, Margaret Mollison, and treasurer Gilbert van Munster are retiring. The load is reasonable when spread across 10 active members although some circulation of committee members is beneficial to all concerned.

Membership fees fall due at the end of each calendar year; ie if you haven't paid for 1994 you're overdue.

Reminder, we are publishing the *Tasmanian Naturalist* on an annual rather than quarterly basis from this year. The volume of material will be at least maintained and the annual issue will be delivered with the October bulletin. This will make the Editor's task and some distribution easier, the Bulletin will continue to be sent to members quarterly.

President's Report.

Unfortunately publication of our butterfly book has been delayed at a late stage of production. Our next publishing venture will be re-issuing *Tasmanian Birds* in a new edition. A subcommittee will oversee changes and the publishing process, see a committee member if you'd like to contribute in any way.

Ventures of this sort need active cooperation as well as skills of members and other contributors. Rather than being necessarily profitable (although breaking-even financially overall is a requirement), our publications should be educational and reflect the aims of the club in promoting appropriate conservation.

The Natural History of Mt Wellington is the subject of an Adult Education course offered by TasNats. It is aimed at both increasing appreciation of The Mountain and generating income to the club.

Survey Program

Another trip to Schouten Island (at the tip of the Freycinet Peninsula) is tentatively planned for October. Botanical records are worthy of follow-up, particularly for spring flowering species from last year's highly successful visit. The western end of the island is also worthy of further exploration.

Mammal survey activities have been in abeyance following the loss of access to small mammal traps. We are hoping to remedy the situation this year.